

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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Interim Final Rules under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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## General Comment

The way that a member's benefit is managed can form an obstacle for treatment or treatment limitation. Benefits must not be managed in a more restrictive way compared to medical and surgical benefits. Denial of addiction treatment after medical detoxification, for instance, is a major way that managed care organizations limit treatment for patients with covered benefits in this area. Refusing to authorize partial hospital services ( 5 days/week) after psychiatric hospitalization- instead forcing patients to access intensive out patient programs ( 3 days/week)- represent another way insurance companies make arbitrary financially influenced decisions to dictate treatment, at odds with the treatment providers recommendations, serving as a detriment to patients.